

EXPLANATION OF DIAGRAM.

Anas., anastomotic ramus from first myelic nerve ; this is the disputed origin of the N. cervico-hypoglossus. Ang., the angle where the N. hypoglossus bends around the A. occipitalis. Ca., caudal ramus. Ce., cephalic ramus. Communicans, a myelic accession, the communicans noni. Crv., myelic nerves. Gen-Hyoid, the genio-hyoid muscle. Ge-Hy-Gl., the genio-hyo-glossal muscle. Hyoglossus, the hyo-glossal muscle. Inf., the ramus to the G. inferius of the N. vagus. Lingualis, the lingual nerve of the mandibular division of the N. trigeminus. Om-Hy., the M. omo-hyoideus. Pl. car., anastomotic filament to the carotid plexus. Pl. gang., the plexus gangliformis. Sty-Gloss., the stylo-glossus muscle. St-Thy., the M. sterno-thyroideus. Thy-Hy., the M. thyro-hyoideus.

Aboriginal Pottery of the Middle Atlantic States.

By Francis Jordan, Jr.

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In the whole range of archæology there are few subjects deserving of more thoughtful consideration, or that possess so many instructive and entertaining features as the study of ceramic art as practiced by primitive man. Its development is contemporary with the progress of civilization, and dates from the earliest period of antiquity, beginning with the manufacture of earthenware of the rudest description, exclusively for culinary purposes, from materials that were too obvious even for the semi-barbarian to overlook. The brief paper I have the pleasure of offering for your consideration is restricted to a discussion of but one of the many branches of this interesting study, namely, the characteristic features of the prehistoric pottery of the Middle Atlantic States, of North America, and the conditions under which it has been recovered.

In its fabrication as in all the departments of aboriginal domestic labor, the work was performed by women, who gave to these rude vessels whatever claim to artistic merit they possess, of which the relics of the mound-builders of the Mississippi valley furnish the best examples.

In form, in decoration, and in the use of pigments, and in their construction, these specimens rank with the early productions of the potters of the old world, a superiority that was doubtless the result of contact with the advanced civilization of the Pacific Coast, and a reproduction of its ceramic forms. The pottery of the Atlantic seaboard is more primitive in its character, and denotes, both in design and decoration, a more remote antiquity, a claim, however, that cannot be established if we accept Indian tradition as authority for the belief that the influx of emigration was from

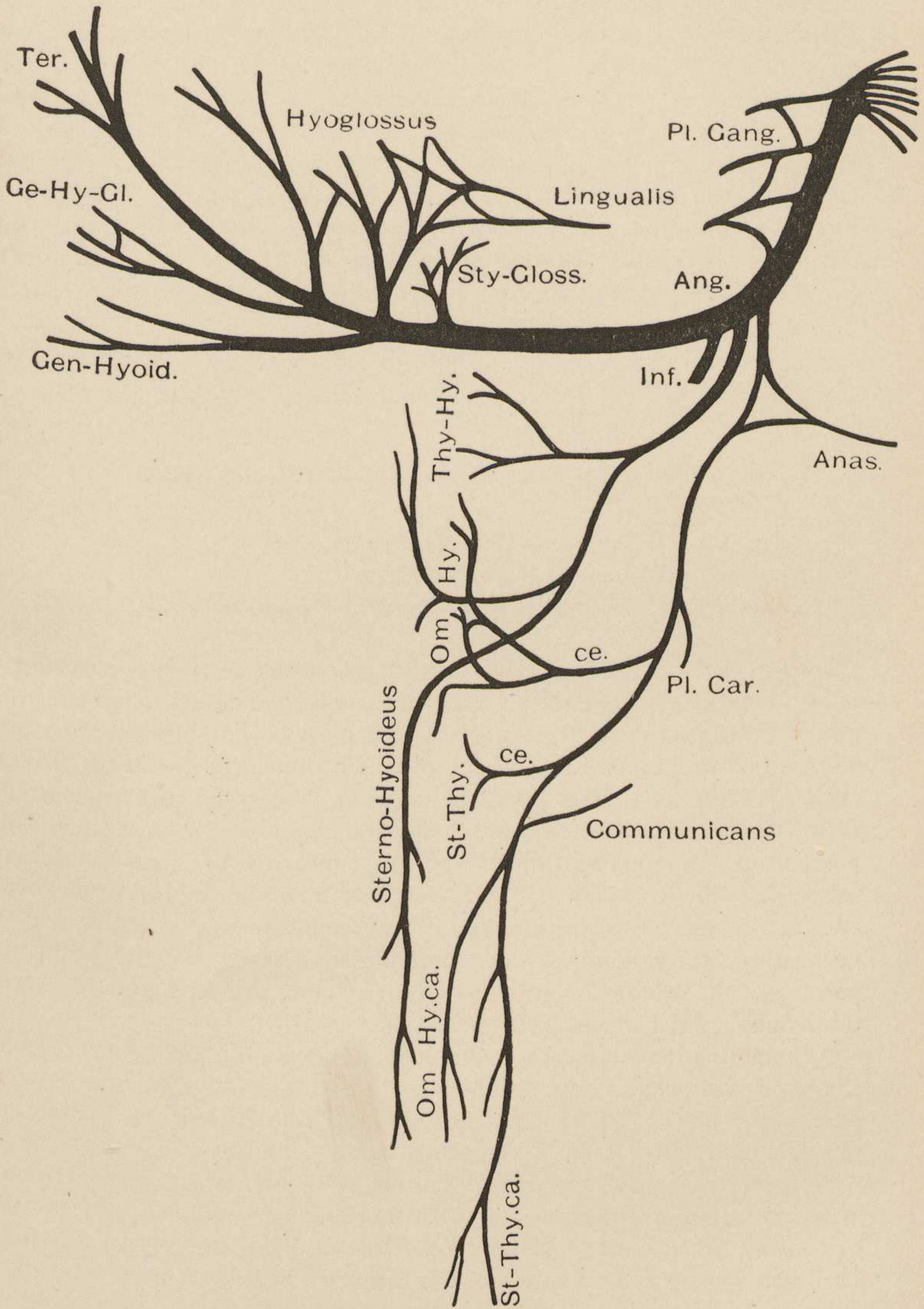
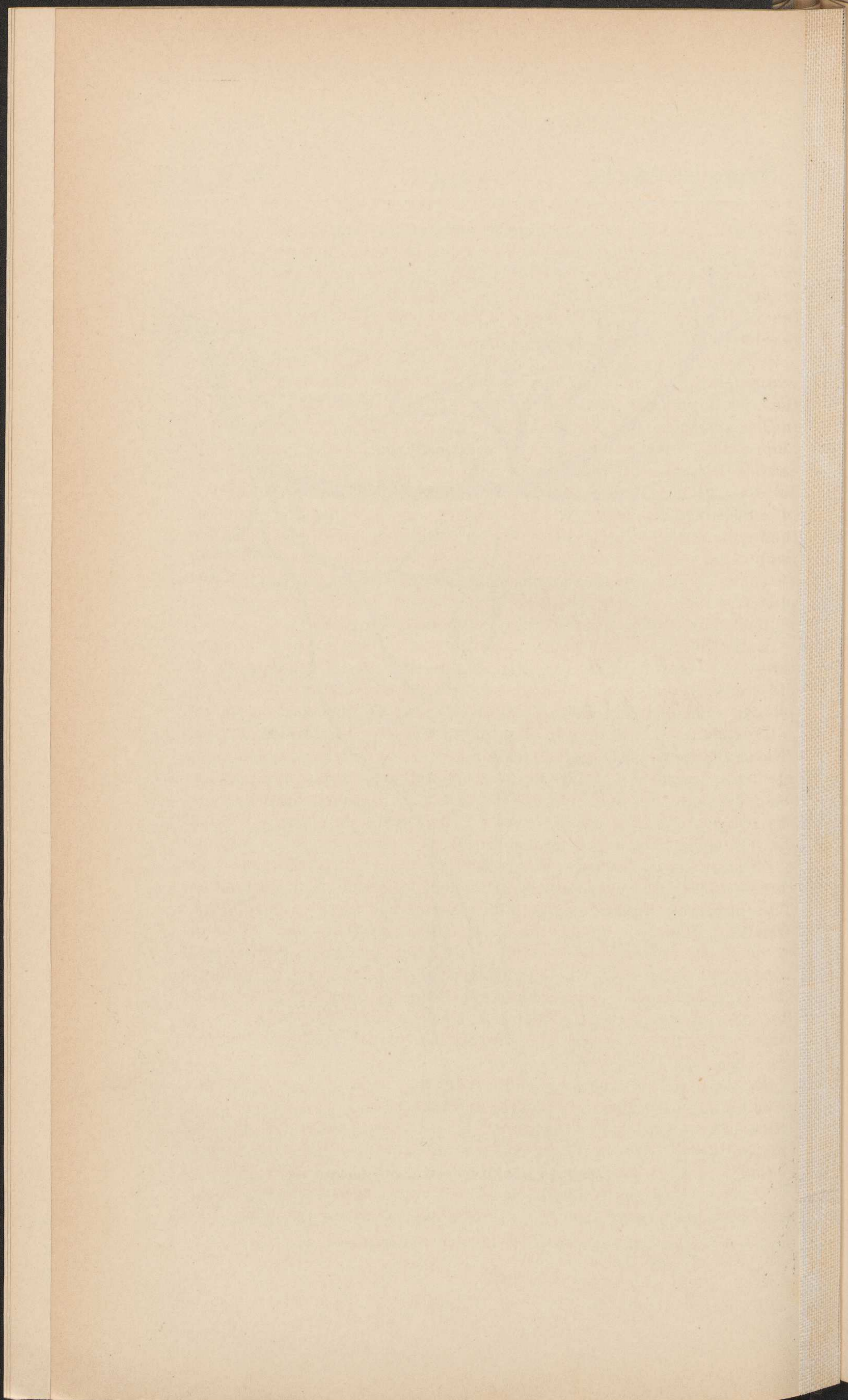


Diagram of the Hypoglossal Nerve.—Stowell.



the West. But it is hardly within the scope of this brief paper to enter into a discussion of the comparative ages of the pottery of the two sections. In view of the very limited number of perfect specimens which have their origin in the Middle Atlantic States, a thoroughly satisfactory treatise of the earthenware of that locality, omitting all other considerations, is hardly within the realm of possibility.

It may surprise those unacquainted with the data, to learn that the entire number of unbroken vessels will not exceed twenty-five, and of these the largest proportion, as well as the most remarkable, was found in Pennsylvania. On the other hand, many hundreds of the most valuable specimens have been recovered in perfect condition from the ancient earthworks and sepulchral mounds in the district beyond the Alleghanies. In some instances these tumuli are of vast proportions, but in the absence of sufficient evidence on which to form anything like an accurate opinion, their antiquity must remain a matter of conjecture. With their identity established, and with the knowledge that the American Indians, following a custom almost universal among semi-barbarous nations, deposited articles of earthenware with the dead, these ancient tombs may be explored without subjecting their contents to accidental destruction.

In the Middle Atlantic States, however, where this mode of sepulture rarely obtained, and where an Indian grave has no visible existence, its discovery is usually one of chance, and then almost invariably made by the plough, a medium very apt to efface all traces of its prehistoric character.

Incredible as it may appear, I am informed by Dr. Charles Rau that the National Museum, at Washington, within two years did not contain a single perfect specimen from the Eastern and Middle States in its archæological collection. In 1878 Prof. E. Hitchcock, of Amherst, Mass., sent to the National Museum colored plaster casts of three clay vessels found in New England. The most remarkable of them is figured in Vol. v, page 14, of the *American Naturalist*. This vessel, together with the largest of the three sent, is in the collection of the University of Vermont, at Burlington. The original of the third cast is in the possession of Mr. George Sheldon, Deerfield, Mass., who found it in the lot adjoining his home. "I know of but one other vessel of this nature," says Prof. Hitchcock, "ever found whole in New England. This is in the hands of Dr. S. A. Green, of Boston." The pottery of New Jersey possesses no distinctive features, if we are to be guided by the two or three unbroken vessels that have been uncovered within her borders. Dr. Abbott figures but one in his "Stone Age" of that State.

Delaware is even more disappointing, as she has thus far failed to contribute a single specimen to aid us in our comparative examination. On the banks of nearly all her water-courses are to be seen refuse shell deposits, many of them of considerable size, and all of great age, indicating a population more dense than any of her sister States. Mingled with the remains of these deserted villages are large quantities of broken pottery, but the fragments are those of coarse and generally undecorated pots that have